

(TMI Focus, Vol. XXIX, Nos. 1 & 2, Winter/Spring 2007)

LAURIE'S LEGACY

by Darlene R. Miller, PhD

Toward the end of her remarks to participants in each *GATEWAY VOYAGE*[®], Laurie would frequently smile, open her arms, and say, "You are now part of the TMI family." The size, love, and support of that family was abundantly clear following Laurie's transition, expressed through a wealth of e-mails, phone calls, and beautiful cards, all bearing the most poignant and caring of messages. We have been comforted and encouraged by each one and want you to know of our deep appreciation. Our hearts are touched and our love flows back to you, the members of our TMI family.

At the time of Bob Monroe's transition in 1995, The Monroe Institute[®] offered only three residential programs—the *GATEWAY VOYAGE*[®], *GUIDELINES*[®], and *LIFELINE*[®]. Under Laurie's guidance and direction, eight additional weeklong programs were created as well as four weekend seminars. These broadened the scope and spectrum of the Institute's courses and provided considerably greater and richer opportunities for the kinds of in-depth explorations that our participants so eagerly desire.

From the beginning Laurie sought to collaborate with organizations and individuals outside TMI whose missions and goals were similar, although they used different methodologies and approaches to foster personal growth and self-discovery. She had great respect for the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) and was especially pleased when IONS named TMI a strategic partner and began to offer the *GATEWAY VOYAGE* on their campus in Petaluma, California. As president of Monroe Products, she persuaded Dr. C. Norman Shealy to lend his voice and support to a series titled *Network of Light*, and Mark Macy of Instrumental Transcommunication to coproduce *Bridge to Paradise*. Under her direction, Monroe Products' *METAMUSIC*[®] titles were vastly expanded to incorporate a diverse range of compositions from respected artists across many traditions and musical styles.

She was an astute businesswoman and, while highly proficient like her father in travels in the out-of-body state, had a keen eye for the bottom line and "real world" business practices. Like many businesses in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, TMI experienced economic fallout and, for the first time under her leadership, operated in the red. Through insightful analyses and hard decisions she was able to bring TMI back into the black and into the solid financial position it holds today.

But it was her personality, humor, vitality, extraordinary generosity of spirit, and her enthusiasm and passion for the work of TMI that endeared her to staff and to the program participants with whom she interacted. Laurie also had a fond and healthy relationship with her

inner child and delighted in its impishness. She loved dressing in costume for Halloween and then silently moving through the dining room to see if participants would recognize her. (One participant, seeing Laurie in her alien costume, fell to his knees, threw his arms around her legs, and cried, "Mother!" She laughed whenever she thought of it for days afterward.) In full Santa Claus regalia, she would deliver presents to staff, "ho-ho-ho-ing" all the way. She was upbeat, inspirational, and brought out the best qualities in those around her, motivating them to try harder, to believe in themselves.

It was no small challenge for Laurie to succeed her famous and charismatic father and to carry on and further the work he had tended and nurtured for so many years. In a file where she kept materials for a book in progress, we found a note in Bob's distinctive handwriting. Dated October 1985, it read: "To Laurie—Some day, you'll have to pick up your heritage—what a waste if you don't! With much love, Daddy/RM." As it turned out, Bob's choice of Laurie as his successor and his confidence in her abilities were well founded. Laurie was indeed the right person for the job and under her leadership TMI not only continued to survive, but to flourish as well. In the month prior to her passing, in a meeting with TMI's Board of Directors, Laurie expressed the strong desire for the Board to find a successor who would "take this [TMI] to the next level" and to insure that the organization would continue in perpetuity. Due to her dedication and diligent stewardship, these goals are imminently feasible.

Thank you, Laurie, for all you've done for TMI and especially for the essence of who you are. Each of us misses your physical presence more than words can express, but we also know that you're having a grand old time in Focus 27 and beyond. Go get 'em, Tiger!

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